Fellowship In Prayer

"For a world united in prayer"

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Volume 1 Autumn1950 No. 8

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER
(Incorporated)
22 East 29th Street
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Volume I Autumn 1950 Number 8

LET US AWAKE!

"How often I think of II Chronicles 7:14 and wish that our people would follow its admonitions!" Thus, writes a good friend. So pertinent, to the aims of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER, is this scriptural text that it seemed fitting to use it on the front cover. (Authorized Version).

The Temple at Jerusalem had been completed and King Solomon had headed a long dedication ceremony. He had prayed for his own people and deliverance from everything harmful of which he could think and sought blessings upon "the stranger ** not of this people ** from a far country" who might pray in the Temple.

Then the record continues "and the Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer." Listing devious visitations, which well might be modern evils, the Lord follows with the promise as quoted on the cover page.

THIS PROMISE IS OURS TO CLAIM--LET US DO SO!

THANKSGIVING

Our Pilgrim Fathers had a hard time during those early days in Massachusetts. But when the crops matured - after much toil and prayer - a day of thanksgiving was observed. Few, if any, of us are called upon to endure the hardships of those early years, while we have infinitely more for which to be thankful.

Yet, how many of us really rejoice over God's blessings and gifts? A day is set aside as a National Holiday--but, if the truth were known, few hearts really use the day for counting the blessings of the past year. Apparently, many of more ancient times were equally amiss--for, the Psalmist cries out repeatedly:

> "Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Ps. 107:8, 15, 21, 31).

Today, we take so much for granted that the thought of praising God is far remote from our thinking. Possibly, that is one of the reasons for the present world chaos. It seemed to be basic with the Hebrews of old that prayer consisted mostly of gratitude and praise for God's mercies, and loving kindnesses. Today it is "give me".

Robert Smith, an English author, said 250 years ago: "Look over the whole creation and you shall see that the band or cement that holds together all the parts of this great and glorious fabric is gratitude."

Let each one of us find some cause for gratitude this Thanksgiving Season.

The year rolls round its circle,
  The seasons come and go;
The harvest days are ended,
  And chilly north winds blow;
Orchards have lent their treasures
  And fields their yellow grain,
So open wide the doorway;
  Thanksgiving comes again.

* * * * *

CONFERENCE WITH MUHAMMAD ABDUL ALEEM SIDDIQUI

His Eminence Maulana Shah Muhammad Abdul Aleem Siddiqui, who has for 35 years toured the earth as a Religious Ambassador of peace and good will, received the Executive Secretary of Fellowship In Prayer with extreme graciousness and listened attentively to the recital of events in the development of Fellowship In Prayer.

In turn, he produced pictures and newspaper articles in reference to a meeting in Singapore on March 18,1949 in which all religious faiths participated. An "Inter-Religious Organization" resulted which, at the time, was enthusiastically acclaimed. More than 2000 attended and speakers were Christian (Protestant and Roman Catholics), Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist.

Later, those in authority in some faiths withdrew support, but the organization is still in existence and repeated efforts have been made to reclaim those who have fallen out, although to no avail.

As a result, His Eminence had reached some definite conclusions which only confirmed convictions based upon previous observations and experiences with Western civilization. They were:

(a) There is slight hope of cooperation from the leaders in any religious order as naturally each is bent on propagating his own faith.

(b) Contrarywise, among the laity in every religious faith contacted, there is a strong desire to come to a religious understanding and to cooperate.

Since Fellowship In Prayer was presented as a direct challenge to the believer in ANY faith, the idea impressed His Eminence as being possible and practical. After discussing the means of implementing the program on a world-wide scale, he provided the addresses of people to whom letters should be sent.

His Eminence has also promised to write a historical

statement about Islam for an early issue of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER.

The farewell parting was an impressive indication of his sincerity and genuine interest in this program.

On October 27th, His Eminence wrote at length from Manila and repeated his deep interest in Fellowship In Prayer. Among other things, he stated, "What is needed is that religion should be raised above the level of sectarianism and sectionalism, and that can be possible only when the principle is accepted by all that only authentic Divine Revelation and Guidance can form the basis of religion. Once that is done, and once the basic points of revealed religion, i.e., belief in the One True God, belief in all the Prophets of God in whatever country and in whatever age they might have appeared, belief in all the revealed Scriptures, belief in the accountability of Man, belief in the Hereafter and the Judgment Day, are accepted, all the religions of the world, under whatever names they might be passing today, will shine with the light of unity and similarity."

* * * * *

A TURKISH LEGEND

A certain Pasha, dead these thousand years,
Once from his palace fled in sudden tears,
And had this sentence on the city's gate
Deeply engraved, "Only God is great!"

So those four words above the city's noise
Hung like the accents of an awful voice,
And evermore from the high barbacan
Saluted each returning caravan.

Lost is that city's glory; every gust
Lifts with crisp leaves the unknown Pasha's dust:
And all is ruin, save one wrinkled gate--
Thereon is written, "Only God is great!"

* * * * *

PLAIN FACTS

Volumes have been written about religious revivals and some people have tried to register the value of such movements, - as if a spiritual force could be measured or calculated.

Often emotional pressures have stirred great gatherings with varying results, but it can be safely said that no religious upheaval has gone for naught.

There are, however, facets to the present growing tide of religious fervor which must be faced with fortitude and understanding. If F E A R is a motivating factor, we are unworthy of having others give their lives on the field of battle. Notwithstanding, fear is with us! George Sokolsky's release of October 2, 1950 deals with this and says,"We are becoming accustomed to fear" which is "an alteration in the attitude of a fearless people." This is largely because we believe that equally destructive to our own war weapons are being built elsewhere. The thought breeds a sense of futility and frustration.

Have we reached the point of where we cry out with Jeremiah in his "Lamentations" (3:47) "Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction"? Well, if we have, and "cry unto the Lord in our distress" we are indeed most miserable. For when the crisis is past, we straightway forget our former distress and "taketh seven more spirits more wicked" and "the last state" is "worse than the first. Working religion in a crisis may be all right, but it can be worn threadbare. Our nonchalant attitude toward religion is one of the strongest factors in creating the present world situation. Surely, there is nothing casual among the workers of darkness. If all God-fearing people worked half as hard in unity of purpose, there would be no cause for fear today.

We seem to have forgotten that we actually need a spiritual regeneration--all of us--people, priests and pastors. It is getting back to that which is fundamental in every religious faith. It needs to be shouted from minaret, pulpit and synagogue. We need to intensify the

thinking of every religious adherent--not on prejudice and bigotry, but on the realities in each one's faith--the need of God in our lives.

Harris Franklin Rall has well said--

> "Man's relation to God comes first and is the basis of all else; then the relation of men to each other. . It is the life from God in forgiveness and love, in peace and strength and joy, which comes when men thus give themselves to God and live in His spirit with their fellows."

* * * * *

OUR PURPOSE

"To promote the practice of prayer among all religious faiths whose fundamental belief is in God, regardless of race, creed or color, and whose tenets include the universal attributes of truth, honesty, justice and mercy, that thereby there may arise a closer relation to Almighty God and a deeper spirit of fellowship among mankind."

So reads our Charter. To achieve these ends, we aim to use every means of publicity available, both secular and religious press, radio, religious leaders, prayer circles, and the like. We challenge ALL faiths to meet on a common ground of prayer to further a spiritual regeneration. You may help in the following manner:

1. Grace before meals wherever you eat. It may be in silence with bowed head, but thank God anyway.
2. Institute a period each day in your own life for prayer and meditation. Let God into the heart.
3. Talk with friends and acquaintances in positive terms concerning a religious revival.
4. When occasion offers, join a prayer group, or start one yourself if it means but two or three. If done earnestly, it will grow.

(Cont'd on page 14)

THE LORD'S PRAYER
in
American Hieroglyphics

Through the courtesy of Rev.Irenaeus Herscher, O.F.M. of the Friedsam Memorial Library at St. Bonaventure University, we devote the two following pages to a reproduction of The Lord's Prayer in quaint American Hieroglyphic Script. The characters were invented in 1677 for the Micmac Indians by a Franciscan, the Rev. Chrestien LeClercq. The adaptation of these characters to the prayer was by a Micmac Indian squaw named Angelica, during the presidency of James Monroe, the exact date being August 3, 1824. These Indians lived along the shores of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The Franciscan friars are still working among the Micmacs.

The translation naturally does not follow the exact English version, few translations do, but the thought is all there. It would be interesting to hear a reading of the Micmac dialect.

The more one studies the following pages, the more one realizes the simplicity, the beauty, and all-inclusive clarity of The Lord's Prayer as it is commonly known.

Our publication featured this prayer in the June issue and there were so many favorable comments upon its universal character that we are led to believe many people had not discerned its wide application. Thus, it is all the more fitting that we share this Indian version with our readers.

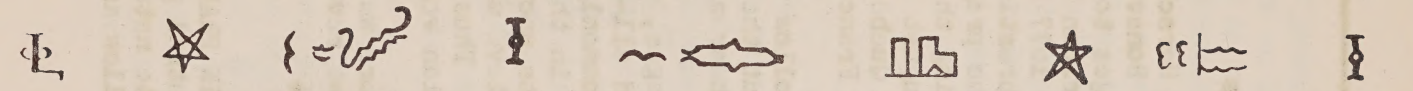
May we most humbly suggest that, before we turn away from our study of the following pages, we reverently repeat the prayer as we have memorized it.

* * * * *

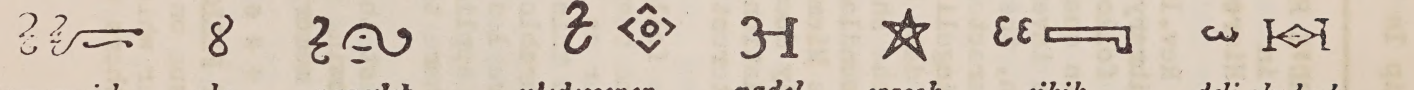
(Subsequent publications of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER will feature one religion an issue on the central pages. One is planned for late December which, quite naturally, will emphasize Christianity. Others will follow as material is available.)

MICMAC OR RECOLLECT HIEROGLYPHICS.

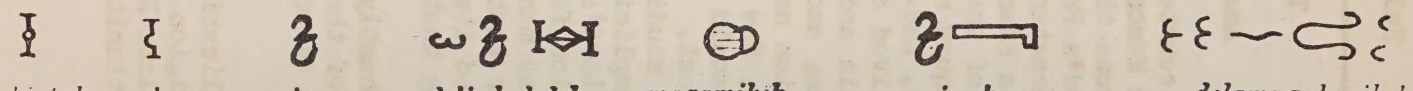
THE OUR FATHER.



Nutschinen *wasok* *ebin* ***tschiptuk*** *deluisin* *mekidedemek*, *wasok* *n'telidanen*, *tschiptuk*
Our Father light thou art sitting **may** as thou art named honored, heaven that we go, may

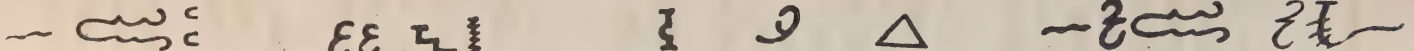


igenemuiek *ula* *nomulek* *uledessenen*, *nadel* *wasok* *eikik* *deli skedask*,
us give there **we see thee** **we will be happy,** there **heaven** **they are** as they obey thee,

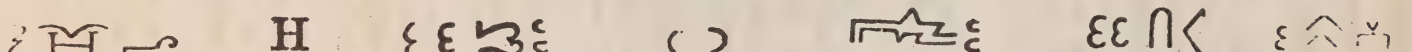


tschiptuk *elp* *ninen* *deli skedulek*, *magamikek* *eimek* *delamugubenikel*
may also **we** so we obey thee, **earth** **we are** the same food

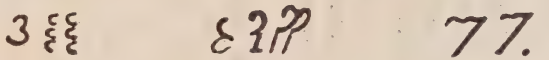
essemiekel, us thou hast given, *apesh* again *nigetsch* now *kiskuk* to-day *delamuktetsch* the same food *penegunemuin* to us let come *nilunal* for our nourishment



deli abiksiktaksik as we pardon *wegaiuinamedenik*, who have been angry with us, *elp* also *kil* thou *Nikskam* Great Spirit *deli abiksiktuin* thou us pardon *elueultiek*, sinners,



melkenin us strengthen *metsch* never again *winsudil* bad things *mu* not *k'tigalinen*, we are brought, *kesinukwamkel* evils *winschik-t* bad



kokwel of every kind *tuachtuin* remove from us *n' deliatsch.* that is true

THE UNITED NATIONS

While the emphasis of Fellowship In Prayer is upon a spiritual regeneration by challenging the believers in every faith to united prayer, we feel that comments at intervals on the spiritual developments within the United Nations are of great importance. It would seem to be the privilege of every believer in God to pray that those who are carrying on the work of United Nations be given wisdom and understanding for success in establishing the organization on a sound footing.

Its beginning at San Francisco was nothing to brag about--but no reflections are cast upon any participant, especially since some have passed on. At its close, a radio commentator remarked over the air, "United Nations will not be a success--they have left God out." Each can assess the correctness of that statement.

However, on September 19th of this year, the General Assembly observed a minute of silence for prayer. This is a start anyway!

In "The Sun Dial" in the NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM and SUN, H. I. Phillips wrote a prayer suitable for all and, we believe, is worthy of space here--

"Lord, we are grateful for the opportunity given us to save a tortured world from endless agonies. Endow us with courage, strength, sincerity and patience in this hour when nothing less will suffice. Fill us with the wisdom to know when we talk too much. Help us to lift our sessions from the miasma of fumbling routines and pitiful snafu into the upper levels of high purpose and worthy performance.

We are men and women of many faiths and creeds. Let these meeting places take on the spirit of temple, cathedral, country church, hillside chapel, mosque, synagogue and shrine.

* * *

Peace, brotherly love and justice were uppermost in the teachings of the deities of all peoples. "Blessed are the peacemakers," said Jesus of Nazareth. "The Lord is my strength and song," said Moses. "Love is like the music of

lutes," spoke Confucius. "Right intent, right views,right speech and right mindfulness" were on the eightfold path prescribed by Buddha. "Glorify thy Lord," said Mohammed. May the influence of their joint teachings come as a blended influence. May this influence invest these halls more with the spirit of the stable at Bethlehem than that of a super-skyscraper in a hurried metropolis.

Awaken us to the realization that the word "agenda" is found in no man's bible, and that one will search through the gospels of all religions without coming across "amendment."

Fill us with the spirit that scorns subterfuge, artful dodging and easy compromise.

* * * * *

In whatever halls we walk and in whatever meetings we deliberate let us have the vision of the high hills and the holy places.

No organization is in greater need of divine help. Make us all aware that in a job calling for the glow of a consecrated task and the fire of a holy mission our routine too often fails to reflect more than a flickering light dimly seen through the fogs of endless argument.

* * * * *

Lead us not into the veto.

And deliver us from double talk, short range vision, cowardice, lack of charity and every impulse to speak only for purposes of deceptive propaganda. Put into the hearts of all peoples in all the nations the will to pray with us and for us, Lord. We ask these things in all humility, fully conscious of the desperate need for spiritual guidance in glorifying the unforgettable message of the ages: "Peace on earth, good will to man!" Amen.

His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, wrote the following prayer (next page) for broadcasting purposes for United Nations Day. It stands alone for its clarity, forcefulness and beauty:

PRAYER FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Father in Heaven, God of all nations,
Bless Thou America, bless Thou the world!
Bless Thy peoples whose representatives here assemble,
Bless them with Thy wisdom, that they may be all-wise,
Bless them with Thy truth, that they may be all-truthful,
Bless them with Thy mercy, that they may be all-merciful,
Bless them with Thy spirit of peace,that they may know peace
And foster peace upon the earth for the sake of Thy glory.

Thine O God is the Hand that has guided nations
Through the slow travail of history,
Shepherding them through storm and strife,
Leading them through forests primeval
Into goodly lands for their inheritance,
Striking off the shackles of barbarism,
Dispelling the mists of error and cruelty,
Ambitioning them onwards in the ways of progress,
Sealing them with high destiny.

In these years of dark confusion
Wild winds carry hisses of hate,
Wars grow deadlier with the decades,
Lands lie blasted and famines rage.
Peoples lie helpless before Thee,
Longing for the peace that does not come.
In this hour of the world's extremity
Thou doest call Thy family of nations,
Gathering them together in this land of liberty,
In this land of peace and plenty.

America is Thine, O God of Nations,
Thine, to use for all nations' sake,
Thou hast spirited this land with love of liberty
Making her a sanctuary of freedom,
A Temple for the Council Chambers of the nations
Where the Spirit of Thy Peace shall dwell,
Nurtured by America's love for humanity,

Served by America's passion for justice,
Guarded by America's might and genius.

O God of History,
Ceaselessly weaving Thy ordained design
Upon the timeless loom of time,
Grant that all nations may follow Thy holy purposes.
Long centuries look down upon this hopeful hour,
Hosts of war-dead stand suppliants beside us;
Myriads of faces seamed with want, woe and fear,
Scarred faces, marked by man's struggle through the ages,
Turn beseeching, begging us remember,
Yearning for the peace that they have won.
They watch us now, the dead and the half-dead
they watch and wonder.

Into man's own hands, O God,
Thou hast placed power for self salvation or destruction.
Seek man peace, life grows abundant;
Seek man war, death dooms the world!
Merciful God of Nations, Spirit of Peace, Thou must Conquer!
Reign Thou supreme among all nations;
Banish hates from peoples; perish wars from earth!
Amen.

Finally we append a "United Nations Prayer" (poem) especially written for this issue:

UNITED NATIONS PRAYER

Lord, look upon all nations
Assembled here in prayer,
And hear the supplications
That rise from everywhere!
Lord, dwell in us!

Lord, look upon each weary heart
That humbly comes to Thee,
Thy gentle blessings Lord impart,

O, hear each silent plea!
Lord, make us wise!

Lord, look upon each upturned face,
Put evil on the run,
Give trustful souls Thy heavenly grace,
Shine on us, like the sun!
Lord, grant us grace!

Lord, look upon each trembling breast
Assailed by doubt and fear!
Give Thy beloved joy and rest,
O, draw in mercy near!
Lord, grant us love!

Lord, look upon Thy children all,
Whate'er their creed, or birth,
Let Satan's wicked kingdom fall,
Thy spirit reign on earth!
Lord, grant us peace!

--Hilda Livingston Roosevelt.

* * * * *

OUR PURPOSE (Cont'd from pp. 6)

5. Worship with your own religious organization and pray for God's spirit to be present.
6. Bring God into your daily activities.
7. Send us names of people whom you think would be interested in furthering the work of Fellowship In Prayer, no matter where they are located.

We cordially invite all God-fearing people to cooperate with FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER.
Contributions toward expenses of carrying on the program will be gratefully received and promptly acknowledged. Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes.

* * * * *

TOPICS OF INTEREST

On September 24th, it was announced that the Communist "reformation of Christianity" in China was under way.

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER acknowledges with deep gratitude the gift of one set of the Holy Koran in Arabic and English by A. Yusuf Ali, also a copy of The Religion of Islam--from the Washington Mosque Foundation, Washington, D. C.

Word comes from Formosa (seat of the Chinese Nationalist Government) that an All-Native Christian Evangelistic Drive is sweeping the Island. It is sponsored by a merchant, a druggist and an arsenal engineer--all Chinese.

If anyone thinks that the "powers of darkness" are not working overtime, witness what has happened in Tibet. And who is to stop it? There will be talk about it, but it is now fait accompli with no real opposition.

Forty thousand people prayed for peace at the Polo Grounds on October 8th under the auspices of the Holy Name Society of New York. Francis Cardinal Spellman delivered the sermon and 300 priests participated in the procession.

Recently, representatives of 41 educational institutions in seven Eastern States heard that "guidance programs" failed to meet the needs of the students. The proposed answer: "They must provide richer social life on the campus." Here is a place to try religion.

The World Alliance for International Friendship Through Religion met August 13-15 at Royaumont, France with 29 delegates present. Its "message" adopted on Religion, calls on all faiths "to minimize their differences" and urges strong support of the United Nations.

The 50th Anniversary of the publication of Charles M. Sheldon's "In His Steps" was celebrated October 15-20 at Topeka, Kansas by the Camp Farthest Out group under

Glenn Clark. It gave opportunity for the appearance of Mr. Clark's latest publication, "What Would Jesus Do."

Patriarch Vikentije, spiritual leader of the Yugoslave people, said recently that "There has been a marked improvement in relations with the State and the Government's good-will has been manifested in a satisfactory solution of a series of questions. Full religious freedom prevails all over the country in every Orthodox Church." God grant that this may continue.

The typical Protestant Christian college girl is characterized by Rev. R.N. Rodenmayer, Chaplain of Smith College, as coming from a home where religion is merely a "garnish" and a "side line" and where the family goes to church "sporadically."
Any religion becomes a travesty when a student reaches college with "inadequate religion" becoming a helpless target for new facts, perplexing questions and "atheistic professors." The fault is placed upon the home.

Previous mention has been made of the fine work being carried on by the Scarsdale Inter Church Council, which organization has become more deeply interested in the program of Fellowship In Prayer.
At its meeting on October 19th, the president put before the meeting the need for united prayer and genuine interest was manifested among the members.
A generous free-will offering was taken for furthering the work of Fellowship In Prayer.

You will be interested in knowing that with reference to one phase of the program of Fellowship In Prayer, set forth in previous issues, contacts have been made with several colleges and universities.

These publications are, of course, made available to the supporters of Fellowship In Prayer, but a copy will be sent to any interested person upon request. Copies in quantity will also be furnished at 5¢ per copy.

A PRAYER

O God, and Father of all mankind, as we approach this Thanksgiving Season, we give thanks unto Thee for all Thy blessings and praise Thy glorious name. Help us, our Father, to show forth Thy love toward others, and kindle within us a consuming passion to do our full share in the building of a world-wide fellowship of brotherly love for peace on earth. We pray Thee, Dear Lord, to bless our efforts and make them count toward this end. Amen.

A BENEDICTION

May the love of God unite us;

The joy of God inspire us;

The peace of God enfold us;

The courage of God sustain us;

And the blessing of God rest upon us;

Through all the days which lie ahead.

oooOooo

When Albrecht Dürer (from whose "Folded Hands" the cover design was adapted) was a struggling artist, a friend of his who also aspired to be an artist made an agreement with him he would do manual labor to earn their living while Dürer studied and painted. Later, it planned, he should have his turn to paint. But when success came to Dürer his friend's hand become so twisted and stiff that he could no longer paint. One day, seeing his friend's work-hands in prayer, Dürer thought, "I can never give back the lost skill of those hands, but show my feeling of love and gratitude by painting his hands as they are now, folded in pray show my appreciation of a noble and unselfish character."

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